

Minutes City Council Education and Technology Advancement Committee October 2, 2007

Minutes of the Council Education and Technology Advancement Committee held on October 2, 2007, 2:30 p.m., in the Third Floor Conference Room, Tempe, Arizona.

Committee Members Present:

Councilmember Onnie Shekerjian, Chair
Councilmember Barb Carter

City Staff Present:

Kathy Berzins, Special Events Supvr	Mark Richwine, Parks & Rec Mgr
Tom Canasi, Comm Services Mgr	Chris Salomone, Comm Dev Mgr
Shelley Hearn, Comm Relations Mgr	Alex Smith, Technology Dev Specialist
Connie Krosschell, Dep City Clerk	Lynette Stonefeld, Communities in Schools, TCC
Jayson Matthews, Mgmt Asst, TCC	Jay Taylor, Fleet Director
Gene Obis, IT Mgr	Sheri Wakefield-Saenz, Econ Dev Mgr
Sheri Partridge, Council Aide	

Guests Present:

Steve Adolph, Superintendent, TUHSD
Amanda Burke, ASU
Chris Busch, Tempe Elementary/Associate Superintendent
Chris Bustamante, VP, Rio Salado College
Brandon Coakley, Williams & Associates
Zita Johnson, TUHSD Governing Board
Nicole LaSlavic, Williams & Associates
Jerrod Longoria, ASU, Undergraduate Student Govt
Kristin Mahr, Asst. Dir/Development, Gateway Community College
Karen Poole, Maricopa County Community College District
Stephanie Salazar, ASU
Dr. David Schauer, Superintendent, Kyrene Elementary School District
Elaine Stover, ASU, Career Services
Dr. Arthur Tate, Superintendent, Tempe Elementary School District
Kim Tobey, Field Experience Coordinator, Rio Salado Community College

Technology Advancement

Chair Shekerjian called the Technology Advancement portion of the meeting to order at 2:32 p.m.

Agenda Item #1 – Public Appearances

None.

Agenda Item #2 – High Technology High

Alex Smith summarized that education is an important element for economic development. Performance of schools is one of the most common questions asked by prospective businesses. Many companies view district-wide data and national rankings. Technology-based education has been used to boost achievement in other municipalities. He highlighted two examples of technology-based education.

- High Technology High, San Diego, California
 - Began in 2000 as a single charter high school launched by coalition of business leaders and educators.
 - Today, it includes 4 high schools, 2 middle schools and 1 elementary school with 2500 students and 200 employees.
 - \$45M in real estate holdings, with annual operating budget of \$18M.
 - First charter school to be authorized to credential its own teachers and granted first statewide charter in January 2006.
 - Key points of success:
 - Conceived by 40 civic and high tech community leaders assembled by Economic Development Corporation and Business Roundtable
 - Building site secured and construction began in Spring 2000.
 - Gates Foundation awarded a replication grant to create a national network of similar schools in July 2000.
 - Opened to 200 ninth and tenth graders in September 2000.
 - First student internships launched in 2001-02.
 - Gates Foundation awarded new grant funding to support new HTH schools in California in January 2006.
 - Results
 - 100% of students have been admitted to college, with 80% admitted to 4-year programs
 - 650 internships have been completed
 - African-American students outperform district and statewide peers by wide margin, percentage who take chemistry, physics and advanced math, and college entry.
- Austin Independent School District (AISD)
 - District-wide high school redesign of 11 high schools to better prepare students for success in college and future careers.
 - Each school offers several choices of aligned study related to broad ranges of interest.
 - Key points of success:
 - FTF (first things first) – smaller classroom settings and rigorous learning opportunities.

- SLCs (Small Learning Communities) of Media Arts Production, Filmmaking, Culinary Arts & Computer Maintenance; Engineering, Automotive Technology & Health Science; Technology, Business, and Law; and Leadership, Engineering, Architecture, Design (LEAD).
 - Charles A. Dana Center at University of Texas will partner with AISD to improve teaching and learning of mathematics in high school level.
 - Emphasis on highest areas of need, including 9th grade Algebra I and support for students with limited English proficiency.
 - Professional Learning Community (PLC) with small groups of teachers to meet regularly to discuss lessons, share new learning and work with student data.
- Examples of available grants:
 - Informal Science Education (NSF)
 - Science Education Drug Abuse Partnership Award (NIH)
 - Research and National Technical Assistance (EDA)
 - Technology Education Foundation
 - Foundations such as Coca-Cola and AT&T

Chair Shekerjian asked Mr. Smith to provide hard copies of his presentation to the Superintendents.

Agenda Item #3 – IB Marketing Update

Sheri Wakefield-Saenz summarized that at the direction of Chair Shekerjian, staff put together a draft marketing/information piece on the International Baccalaureate Program. The piece will be used to partner with the business community for potential funding of the program in local schools. The piece will need additional refining as more is learned about the IB program at Tempe High and plans for IB at TD3 in the middle schools. Tempe Union High School District and Tempe High will be contacted to garner additional details about the program, including enrollment, curriculum, cost, etc., and details will be added to the brochure.

Agenda Item #4 – Scope of Work Update

Shelley Hearn summarized that completed tasks were removed from the previous work plan and new categories have been added based on the scope of work suggested by Mayor Hallman.

Chair Shekerjian added that Economic Development has been added, and over the next few weeks, she and Councilmember Carter will meet with Sheri Wakefield-Saenz and Chris Salomone to formulate bullet points under that category. The work plans will be discussed at the Council's Issue Review Session on October 4th. She also stated that Channel 11 should be added under the Technology portion of the work plan. She added that Channel 11 could be used by the schools to highlight successes and the School Boards could also tape their meetings and have them played on Channel 11.

Agenda Item #5 – Future Agenda Items

- Update work on the IB marketing brochure and look at other funding sources.

- Chair Shekerjian asked Sheri Wakefield-Saenz to explore how ASU students could connect with City opportunities on the internship website and provide an update. She also asked for an update on businesses which might be willing to use the website.
- Sheri Wakefield-Saenz announced that a Technology and Education forum will be hosted on October 17th at the Tempe Center for the Arts. Over 70 CEO's and Executives have been invited to sit with City Council and have an interactive discussion. She will report on the input at the next meeting.

The Technology Advancement portion of the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Chair Shekerjian called the Education portion of the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

EDUCATION

Agenda Item #1 – Public Appearances

None.

Agenda Item #2 – Introductions

Chair Shekerjian had everyone introduce themselves.

Agenda Item #3 – Teacher Prep Programs

Dr. Chris Bustamante summarized that Rio Salado Community College (RSCC) serves over 6,000 students annually, mostly on-line. He introduced Kim Tobey, Field Experience Coordinator, who provided a presentation on teacher prep programs.

Kim Tobey summarized that these programs focus on Post-Baccalaureate (Post-Bacc) students desiring teacher certification.

- The educational experience is transformed through choices, flexibility, customized and high-quality learning, personalized services and organizational responsiveness, including:
 - An Associates Degree focused on education
 - Post-Bacc Teacher Preparation Programs
 - Teacher-In Residence Program
 - Continuing education for teachers including Structured English Immersion (SEI) coursework, a 14-week course, beginning every 2 weeks, also available on-line.
- Overview of Programs
 - Standard Post-Bacc includes 4 programs in Early Childhood, Elementary, Secondary and Special Education with programs available both on-line and in person, and approved by the AZ Department of Education (ADE) for full certification.
 - Basic learning model including on-line coursework, master teacher meetings for role model and reality, practicum experience for observing, tutoring and teaching, and student teaching. Outcome is qualification to take the Arizona Educators Proficiency Assessment (AEPA) exam to become a certified teacher.
 - Teacher-In-Residence

- The program was designed to put teachers into the classroom using the ADE Intern Certificate. Candidates don't have to wait an additional two years before getting into the classroom.
- As a district identifies a candidate (with a minimum of a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited institution), it initiates a partnership with RSCC and RSCC completes the paperwork.
- Through the partnership, there is a cohesive, mentoring program for two years. The student is taking coursework, the school district is working with them through their normal professional development, RSCC assigns a supervisor, and for the candidate who does well and meets the requirements, the school district knows they are committed to them for two years.
- This "grow your own process" allows schools to provide opportunities to substitutes who might already have Bachelor's Degrees, get them into the classroom, and keep them in their school.
- Brings qualified math, science and special education teachers to Tempe.
- Virtual practicums feature videotapes of exceptional teachers for interactive questions and answers for students.

Chair Shekerjian asked how districts could access graduates if they don't have the Teacher-In-Residence program.

Ms. Tobey responded that a yearly career fair is held, and eventually there will also be a job-posting website. RSCC desires to find the best way to work with the districts.

Agenda Item #4 – Career/Education Fair Update

Dr. Karen Poole announced that the Career Expo 2007 will be held on Saturday, October 6th, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the University of Phoenix Stadium. This is the model being considered for the East Valley, and the Maricopa team will meet on October 19th to discuss further issues related to having the career fair in the East Valley. Last year, over 11,000 people attended the expo, so it opens many possibilities for the East Valley.

Chair Shekerjian will be meeting with Dr. Pool and Amanda Burke to discuss ASU's role as a partner, as well as possibly serving as the venue for the event.

Agenda Item #5 – Bus Driver Needs Update

Steve Adolph summarized that there has been some improvement, with the Tempe Union High School District currently in need of only six drivers.

Jerrold Longoria stated that he has sent a notice to ASU students, but the required work hours are difficult for students to coordinate with their schedules.

Dr. David Shauer added that the Kyrene School District has been able to cover their positions at the moment.

Chris Bustamante added that the community college system has a website, *maricopajobbing.com* which could be used for posting, and Kristin Mahr added that postings could be made on the boards in the career centers. Stephanie Salazar also noted that the ASU Student Employment Office has the opportunity for free job postings at *asu.edu/fa/employment*.

Agenda Item #6 – Tempe High Centennial Celebration

Steve Adolph summarized that the Tempe High School Centennial Celebration will be held on October 16, 17, 18, 19 and 20. This is an exciting event for both Tempe High and for the Tempe Union School District.

Agenda Item #7 – Scope of Work Update

Shelley Hearn summarized that staff tweaked the previous work plan based on the Mayor's direction. Some of the new categories do not have bullet points as yet.

Chair Shekerjian stated that Channel 11 will be added, as well.

Agenda Item #8 – Tempe Elementary District Update

Dr. Arthur Tate provided a Tempe Elementary District Update:

- Partnership with ASU for a charter school, the first in the country, scheduled to open the year after next.
- Working on bringing the IB program to McKemy Middle School as well as one elementary school.
- Scales School has been torn down and a new school, "Scales Technology Academy", will be built and will open next year. The school will be state of the art, with 640 computers with the use of technology as a vehicle to make sure all students have what they need in education. The district hopes to fill the school.
- A campaign is underway to raise the necessary funds for the universal preschool. They are ahead of their goal so far.
- Pappas School will close by the end of the school year as the district wants to bring those students into the district. He suggested that the City consider a use for this building.
- The bond issue is for \$64M in renovations of schools for the 5-year period, with Scales being the first, with four more schools following. They will then go back to the public with another bond issue for continued rebuilding of schools.

He added that he is very appreciative of the district's partnership with the City.

Chair Shekerjian suggested talking to Rio Salado Community College regarding the property at Pappas School.

Agenda Item #9 – Announcements

Tom Canasi announced that the City received a \$50K grant from the Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community to assist art education in partnership with the schools. This ties into Tempe's direction to promote art in the community and the grant will go to Council this month. The focus will be on three programs:

- "Building Arts Skills" program focuses on elementary school children for new learning and specific skills rather than on a final product. This will be integrated into the existing curriculum, which will link an art project to the existing study course.
- "Youth Wind Ensemble" is a pilot program which brings high school students as mentors to middle school students to promote the arts. This grant will help expand the program throughout the district. The program culminates in a concert and the grant will help provide transportation and conductor support.

- “Music Under the Stars” showcases community talent, with middle school, high school and college students coming together.

Councilmember Carter asked who monitors the grant.

Mr. Canasi responded that City staff in partnership with the districts will monitor the grant. It's really an expansion of what is already being done.

Chair Shekerjian thanked staff for their efforts with this grant. The Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community invited the City to apply for this grant, and Mr. Canasi stepped up and was successful.

Chair Shekerjian added that there has been a desire to find ways to share school district successes with the community. One way is to bring items to these committee meetings and also use other City venues, such as City Council Meetings, which are aired on Channel 11, and the “Tempe Today” brochure in the water bills. She asked anyone with items to share to let her know so they can be added to the committee agendas. She has also invited the Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community to send participants to “Music Under the Stars.”

Agenda Item #11 – Future Agenda Items

Chair Shekerjian stated that although the committee brings items forward for the group to consider, there are many major topics on the work plan that are very broad. If anyone has an item or issue on which they need help, she asked that they bring it to the committee so that the committee can brainstorm and be used as a sounding board. Many issues may fit under the broad topics on the work plan.

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Prepared by: Connie Krosschell
Reviewed by: Shelley Hearn

Jan Hort
City Clerk